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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EUR-12 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CU-02
SAB-02 DHA-02 IO-13 AF-10 /114 W
----------102352Z 028012 /70
R 102207Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7737
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSN, GW, PDIP
SUBJECT: SCHEEL VISITS COSTA RICA

1. SUMMARY: FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL HAS ENDED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, MAINLY CEREMONIAL, VISIT TO COSTA RICA. SCHEEL MADE VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON PUBLIC, MEDIA, AND GOCR. ON SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, HE EXCHANGED GENERAL VIEWS ON WORLD SCENE WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER. FONMINS FACIO AND GENSCHER CONDUCTED PARALLEL AND MORE IN-DEPTCH DISCUSSIONS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, TRADE, LOME CONVENTION, BERLIN, CHILE, PANAMA CANAL, BELIZE, ETC. ALL TALKS WENT SMOOTHLY. BOTH SIDES EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH ALL ASPECT OF VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. FRG PRESIDENT WALTER SCHEEL, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. SCHEEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER, CONCLUDED A HIGHLY
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SUCCESSFUL FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT TO COSTA RICA JUNE 9. LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE AND REACTION HIGHLY POSITIVE. ALL FIVE DAILY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED FAVORABLE EDITORIALS WELCOMING THE FRG PRESIDENT. LEADING DAILY "LA NACION," JUNE 6 SUMMARIZED ALL EDITORIAL COMMENTARY WHEN IT DECLARED "PRESIDENT SCHEEL... IS RECEIVED IN COSTA RICA FOR WHAT HE IS: A GREAT FRIEND."

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3. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT SCHEEL REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH COSTA RICA IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE COMMON STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE, AND FREEDOM AND EXTOLLED THE WARM AND FRIENDLY STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. AT ONE POINT WHEN ASKED BY AULOCAL JOURNALIST HOW COSTA RICA AND GERMANY CAN HAVE SUCH GOOD RELATIONS WHENT THEY HAVE NEVER FORMALLY SIGNED A PEACE TREATY ENDING WORLD WAR II, SCHEEL QUIPPED THAT SUCH A FORMALITY WAS UNNECESSARY TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBASSY SOURCE, PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WENT SMOOTHLY, AND CONSISTED ESSENTIALLY OF EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON WORLD SCENE. GERMANS REVIEWED SITUATION IN EUROPE WITH FOCUS ON THE HELSINKI CONVEFTION AND BERLIN; COSTA RICANS RAISED TRADE AND AID. COSTA RICA REITERATED SUPPORT FOR FRG ON BERLIN AND OTHER ISSUES, AND BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT NO POLITICAL ISSUE DIFFERENCES EXIST. PARALLEL TALKS OCCURED ON FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. TWO SEPARATE SESSIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE STRUCTURED FOR PRESENTATIONS ON FIRST DAY BY GENSCHER, AND ON SECOND DAY BY FACIO. GENSCHER REVIEWED GAMUT

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OF BILATERAL ISSUES -- TRADE, DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, EDUCATIONAL/
CULTURAL EXCHANGE. NOTHING NEW OF SIGNIFICANCE WAS AGREED UPON;
GERMANS PLEDGED TO INCREASE LINE OF CREDIT TO GOCR FOR IMPROVEMENT
OF PORT LIMON FACILITIES. FACIO REVIEWED OUTSTANDING LATIN
AMERICAN QUESTIONS AS VIEWED BY COSTA RICA: PANAMA CANAL,
BELIZE, CHILE, SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, HUMAN RIGHTS.
HE ALSO COVERED COSTA RICAN RELATIONS WITH MEXICO AND U.S.
ON CHILE, GENSCHER AND FACIO REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THE CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF AN INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA
EFFORT WHICH HAS SINGLED OUT THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT FOR
CRITICISM.

5. ODUBER AND FACIO RAISED LOME CONVENTION AND NOTED DISCRIM-
INATION AGAINST LATIN AMERICA. SCHEEL AND GENSCHER RESPONDED
THAT LOME CONVENTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP VERY POOR COUNTRIES AND
THAT FRG WAS IN FAVOR OF INCREASING LDC PARTICIPATION IN CON-
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VENTION, BUT OTHER EC MEMBERS WERE NOT. GERMANS ALSO POINTED
OUT THAT COSTA RICA ENJOYS MOST FAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH
GERMANY.

6. SCHEEL MADE A HIT, ACCORDING TO COSTA RICAN CONTACTS, IN
MEETINGS WITH THREE OF FOUR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, AND IN VISIT
TO FREDERICH EBERT FOUNDATION SUPPORTED LABOR EDUCATION IN-
STITUTE, WHERE HE MET WITH LABOR LEADERS.

7. SCHEEL ALSO MET WITH COFFEE OFFICE OFFICIALS, BUSINESS
LEADERS, AND THE LOCAL GERMAN COMMUNITY. HE VISITED SCHOOLS,
MUSEUMS, PLAYED GOLF EVERY MORNING, RECEIVED THE KEY TO SAN
JOSE, AND GAVE HONORS.

8. AT A SHORT PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 7 SCHEEL WAS ASKED ABOUT
GERMAN REUNIFICATION. HE STATED IT WAS HIS GOAL BUT THAT IT WAS
OBVIOUS IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE AT THIS TIME. HE ADDED
THAT THE FRG WANTS TO CONTINUE NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH EASTERN
EUROPE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT A "LONDON SUNDAY TIMES" REPORT LINKING
THE FRG TO A PLOT TO INVADE ANGOLA, HE DISMISSED THE STORY AS A
FIGMENT OF SOMEONE'S IMAGINATION. WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF AFRICA,
FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER DECLARED THAT THE FRG WAS ATTEMPTING
TO MEDIATE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S.
AND CONGO BRAZZAVILLE.

9. COMMENT: THE GREGARIOUS SCHEEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER,
WHO FACIO PRIVATELY DESCRIBED AS"BRILLIANT," MADE A HIGHLY POSITIVE
IMPACT IN COSTA RICA. THE LEISURELY VISIT CEMENTED ALREADY STRONG
BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE GERMANS GOT EXCELLENT PRESS, WERE
AFFABLE, SEEMED TO ENJOY THEMSELVES, AND UNDERLINED GOOD RELATIONS
WITH A SMALL DEMOCRACY. THE COSTA RICANS WERE PLEASED TO RECEIVE
THE ATTENTION, AND THEY STRENGTHENED A RELATIONSHIP THAT THEY VALUE

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VERY MUCH. PRESIDENT ODUBER, NOTING BOTH SCHEEL'S AND MRS. CARTER'S VISITS, LOST NO TIME POINTING OUT TO THE CRITICS OF HIS GOVERNMENT THAT COSTA RICA IS REGULARLY SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY THE LARGE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. AND INTERNAL
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POLITICS (AND VESCO) ASIDE, THE COSTA RICANS LOVE IT -- AND AGREE WITH HIM KILDAY

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